

MAY 1991



# Point three

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**The Way Forward**

The magazine of



## **Point three**

the magazine of



Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## **Cast not a clout.**

May already! It has always been my favourite month - not least for the fact that it is my birthday time, but also because it starts to get warmer and so many flowers are out - like the bluebells which we have celebrated by putting them on the front cover!

We begin the series 'The Decade of Evangelism' with a thoughtful appraisal by Keith Lamdin, who is Adult Education Adviser for the Diocese of Oxford. The intention is to stimulate interest amongst readers for branch discussions and hopefully several will be encouraged to write in. Since it is often just the good old regulars who contribute to the letters page I sometimes despair that apathy is the main condition amongst the membership - and yet the magazine is primarily written for YOU. I was once taught by an Anglican nun who felt that the original sin was more likely to have been Apathy rather than Pride.

Having said my admonishment, I have been gratified to receive quite a flood of letters approving of the new style magazine, and the pilot of Isle of Wight Women's Branch adds that they 'all find the editorial comments very helpful,' which makes one feel that the right note is being hit!

I'd like to see the Decade of Evangelism coincide with a decade of revival for Toc H branch life - which never ceases to impress me and to remind me that this practice of Christian caring is what life should be all about. Our series on Branch Life in the 1990s emphasises such sentiments.

Another article in this issue reminds us of the work of Peter East in Bangladesh. His close friend and former colleague, Ken Prideaux-Brune, writes of the current situation of the Khasdorib Youth Action Group and the Schools under the Sky begun by Peter. Since a £5 a month contribution literally makes the difference between life and death for the poor in Bangladesh, Ken urges

members to send any donations to the International Officer, John Biggerstaff, at Headquarters in Wendover.

I was privileged to hear Peter talking at the World Chain of Light at Cuddesdon House in December about a recent return visit he made to Bangladesh since his retirement. He spoke of the chance that education has given people by the setting up of the Schools under the Sky - offering hope for a people who have never had a full belly and where permanent hunger is the everyday reality. 'They are always hungry,' says Peter, with quiet anguish. And it is a devastating statement.

I can't count the number of times I have heard people say that there is no point in helping to feed hungry people in third world countries because any donation is a mere drop in the ocean. Peter East's great achievement in Bangladesh is a living inspiration that that simply isn't true - we need all the drops we can muster.

I would like, unusually, to conclude this page with a poem. It is written by Bill Bains, Staff Development Officer based in Leeds.

### **Greatness**

Greatness: What quality is this?  
That when men own it, they deny it;  
Yet when men crave it, they are blinded by it.  
What is the spark? A tiny star that shines  
In darkness semipartial; a spark that men  
Name Genius! Or is it the understanding,  
The love, that is harboured in their hearts  
And lends them a quality that men call wisdom:  
Still yet humanity. Can it be this  
That instils into their fellows, faith, hope,  
Charity, that in turn endow peace and joy.  
Or is it, at last, the light of God,  
Showing men the way to achieve their heaven.

W.W. Bains

Ruth Boyd

**Editor: Ruth Boyd**

**Editorial Assistant: Thomas Hill Long**

**Cover**

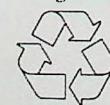
Bluebells in May

photo: David Richards

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Tel: 0296 623911)

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

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*Point three* is printed on recycled paper.

*Funded by Warden Manor and Safer Cities and helped by Avon and Somerset Constabulary, David Harrison took a group from Bristol to look at some of the history of conflict, and Toc H, in Flanders.*

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

Bristol is a large and prosperous city. Built on the trade of shipping merchants, there are magnificent buildings with a rich legacy of architecture, museums and galleries. It has many churches per head of population and has become a centre for health, personal growth and alternative therapies. But Bristol is a place of extremes and contradictions. The shipping merchants' trade once consisted of slavery, tobacco and alcohol and these foundations of its wealth make some citizens of Bristol a bit uneasy. It also has the stigma of two recent riots and it doesn't take a sensitive eye to notice the widening gap between the wealthy and poor. Bristol provides a fabulous venue for world wine fairs, international powerboat racing, world ballooning fiestas and international kite festivals. All of these I enjoy. But yesterday there was a gun attack in a street near to where I live and I expect today's local newspaper will carry more true stories of life in the inner city of Bristol.

In 1915, in Belgium, in the trenches, 250 young people from schools, offices and factories were killed every day. And that killing went on for over four years.

It would seem that the recent Gulf War has brought precision killing from out of the amusement arcades, right into our homes. On our TV screens we could see a missile, a tiny speck of white, travelling along a laser beam and 'taking out' an enemy installation. A Tomahawk negotiating its journey through the streets of down town Baghdad and terminating with collateral damage. This was a new age of war with new, clean cut words to describe it. 'Collateral damage' makes it difficult to imagine the now traditional images of war. No screaming child with searing napalm stuck to its back.

In 1915, trench war technology had none of this sophistication. And our young men slogged it out with appalling casualties.

The day after the Gulf War ceasefire and 72 years after the First World War, a group of 12 started out from Bristol to stay for five days at Talbot House, Belgium. Lads from Bristol city schools, about the same age as those young soldiers before them. Probably of the same backgrounds and probably feeling that same excitement of going somewhere new.

But this group's mission was not to fight another battle in the Somme but to see what it is that causes war and to see if personal conflict has the same poisoned roots. After all, conflict is something we can experience every day, not with bullets and tanks but with words and actions.



I think I was naive. I thought this group would give me respect because I was the leader; but they didn't. I thought they would discuss issues in sessions that I had scheduled: they wouldn't. Instead they discussed things when it was right for them, like the time spent walking through Passchendaele cemetery. And they chose subjects, like attitudes towards their skin and colour. They chose some rules too: how conflict is not about something in history, remote and detached, it is about something happening now, so don't expect an easy time, don't expect clean cut analysis of the past. And don't expect articulate description of conflict - but you can expect the language of the trenches.

Towards the end of the week I was feeling like throwing out the few counselling and facilitating skills that I possess and just throttling these young Bristolians. They were awkward, rude, but most of all they were ungrateful! After all, I had spent weeks securing funding, organising co-leaders and even presenting this trip on local BBC radio.

I was going through this list (and adding much more to it) as we strolled back from the mini-bus to the front doors of Talbot House. It was getting dark, as we had been out late visiting Ieper, when two things happened. One particular lad, whose only pleasure appeared to be 'checking out the local talent', came and walked alongside me. He interrupted my thoughts on the positioning of fire extinguishers, should Talbot House catch on fire that night. And then he told me about how the week had

meant such a lot to him, and about how he wasn't brilliant at expressing his thoughts, but that he wanted me to know how important this time was to him. My feelings changed from my righteous indignation to crushing guilt that I had been too thick to notice that important and good work was happening without me realising it. I was still reeling from this revelation, when another young volunteer pointed up to the sign above Talbot House and asked if Everymans Club included him. This took me aback; of course if this was 1915, the house would have been full of young men just like him. But things change. War is no longer about low tech trench warfare. It is about well educated and trained technicians firing Patriot missiles at \$300,000 a shot. And I had to think and question if Talbot House, Toc H and I would much rather have nicer, articulate people to join rather than the 'lower ranks'.

It has taken a few weeks to stand back from this visit and to look at its value for the participants and for Toc H. As for me it was one of the toughest pieces of work and, faults and all, it is the project of which I am the most proud. Inner city life can be oppressive, sapping energy and imagination. I am inclined to believe that it is only through exploring our imagination that we begin to understand the negative results of prejudice, conflict and war. Perhaps one of the most troubling results of the Gulf War is that Precision Bombing and Educated Missiles can take away the ability to imagine the devastating results of pressing just one small micro-switch of a computer.

Today conflict is no longer in the trenches of West Flanders. The battleground has moved to our fragmenting communities. It is relationships that are under attack. By the year 2000, nearly half of Britain's teenagers will be living with just one parent. For a few days Toc H offered support to these young fighters of the inner city of Bristol.

It feels right to go on exploring partnerships with groups who don't have much access to the resources that Toc H can offer. I feel proud of Toc H; that it is not just another means for the affluent to become ever more privileged in terms of personal growth. That it can be the starting point, or the building blocks, for those with little to begin with. I now believe that the future of Toc H must remain rooted in the experience of young men and women from schools, offices and factories. And today more than ever they too can find Talbot House as a moment's sanity in a world gone mad.

**David Harrison**  
is Staff Development Officer based in Bristol

# Branch Life in the 1990's

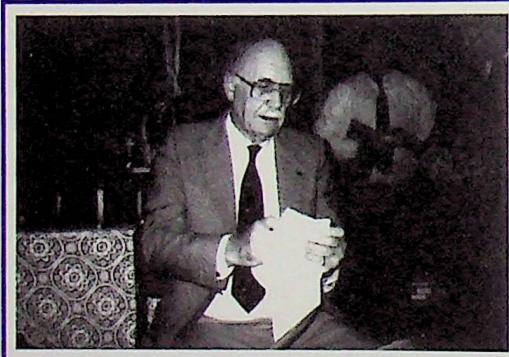
## Stockport, Manchester

*'A new home has given us a new lease of life. And we have taken on a great challenge - turning the Toc H children's camp at Adlington, Poynton, into a modern centre.'*

*The editor recently visited Stockport Branch at their new meeting place at Heald Green, accompanied by Edgar Stickley, a member of Wyre Forest Branch, the CEC and the new Branch/Group subcommittee.*

It boasts a Royal Charter - a group of men started meeting in 1923 and in December of that year at London's Royal Albert Hall, in the presence of the late Duke of Windsor, Stockport received its lamp - and 68 years later the members are proud to have, hanging on their wall, the signatures of the founder members.

And pride in their membership of Toc H is certainly a lasting memory of the branch, who have weathered various changes of meeting rooms - never to quite recapture the atmosphere of 5a Lytham Street, Cale Green, their 'Upper Room' for over 40 years, when every meeting was preceded by a singsong on the piano.



*John Darlington, Chairman*

Just over 12 months ago the branch moved to their present address at the Brown Lane Methodist church, Heald Green, which has proved a great success. The church is most sympathetic to their needs and the branch are planning to strengthen the relationship.

There are 18 members of the branch, which has an average age in the 60s - with half the members of retirement age. Robin, the secretary, is the youngest at 44. One of the mainstays, Bill Bennett, until recently Chairman for many years, joined through his son-in-law, Alan, 24 years ago. Alan Clarkson has been programme secretary for 18 years and a member since 1954 when he joined at the age of 22, straight after National Service. You know the type - Toc H through and through - you can spot his enthusiasm from yards away.



There is an interesting mixture of members, in true Toc H tradition - from Evelyn, a Jamaican who used to be in the Air Force and is a retired airport policeman, Robin who is a Sunday school teacher, Arthur a former printer with the Manchester Evening News and Eric, a former transport manager and the longest serving member, Isobel an office worker, Alan a progress chaser, Bill a former area maintenance engineer, John (Chairman) who trained as a fighter pilot and who is a retired salesman for the Gas Board. There are eight Methodists in the branch and several non-conformists. All the members are churchgoers. Every Good Friday for many years they have all gone to an afternoon service at Styal Methodist Church in the country.

In its early days Stockport Branch helped to form the blood transfusion service, worked with the Leprosy Relief Association, the Marks, and assisted the local branch of the British Legion.

Current work includes the Toc H Stepping Hill hospital library service. The branch has some 3000 books available for loan. They have two trolleys which they load up with about 300 books per trolley. The men go round the men's wards every Thursday and the ladies round the women's wards every Tuesday and Wednesday. This has been going on since 1931 and continued right through the war. Other regular activities include helping with Pymgate Residential Home. There is a rota to take some of the dozen residents to church every week and to Christian Fellowship every Wednesday. The branch also give the residents Christmas parties and last year hired a coach with a chair lift and took them to Alison House.

Then there is work with the Manchester/North Wales Toc H children's camp at Rhyl, the Hospital League of Friends, food parcel distribution at Christmas to senior citizens, repairing wheel chairs, hospital broadcast services, and money-raising efforts like jumble sales and concerts. They have also maintained wireless sets for the blind.

John Gresty, who helps Toc H at Stepping Hill hospital, works on the telephone exchange at St Anne's Hospice every Sunday afternoon, and John Darlington (chairman) does a lot of home visits; Bill Bennett takes flowers from the church to people in hospital; Eric and Florence collect old spectacles to be sent to India and collect stamps for Guide dogs ....

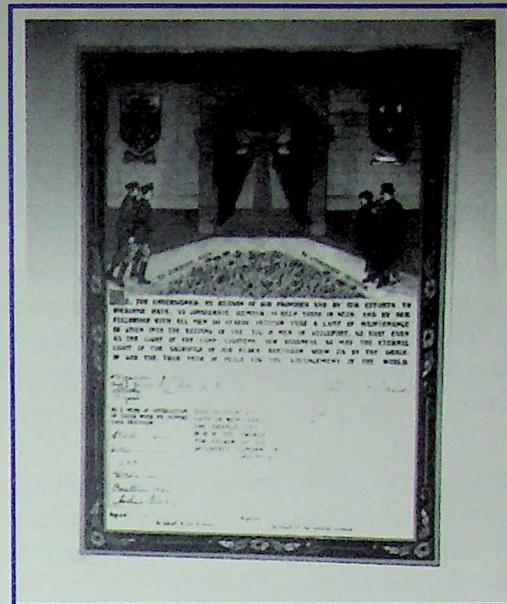
But by far the most ambitious project facing the branch is the children's camp. Two large wooden huts, about 40ft by 20ft, are set in 3½ acres of land owned by the branch at a beauty spot at Adlington, just outside Stockport. Many disadvantaged children, who have never seen the countryside, use the facility, which is also enjoyed by cubs, scouts, and the boys brigade. The camp has been closed for three years whilst being modernised and having facilities like an oven, calor gas, and toilet blocks installed.



*Working party of Stockport members at Claytonfield Camp*

Part of the financing came from Telethon, who gave the branch £15,000. The work done on the buildings is by members and volunteers, and local tradesmen have been generous in providing discounts, such as the local builder who recently delivered an enormous quantity of wood to line the inside of the buildings. A local bank provided £3000 for landscaping, and some 1800 trees have been planted. The intention is to have one dual purpose hut open this summer and have the second one fully operational next year. When it is finished it will be called Claytonfield Children's Camp. The branch will be using the facilities themselves for elderly people, but feel that their age precludes them from running projects themselves. They will be a booking agency.

One senses the frustration that age is a handicap for several members who would like to muck in and have a go at the physical work, although Evelyn is 76 and has done a lot of work on the garden. Chairman John Darlington is aware of the frustration: 'It is important that we keep the interest and momentum of the project going. One of the problems is the physical limitations of this branch. Even though some can't do physical work because of infirmity, they can use their heads and give us ideas. It is a very important project and one that we are going to see through to the bitter end, no matter what. This is why I spend a lot of time each week talking about the camp. We need to keep the enthusiasm going. In



*The Royal Charter*

two or three years we are going to apply to have the World Chain of Light from there.'

The branch is a traditional one. They have four new members and see the church itself as a source of recruitment. They are keen supporters of Cyril Carrier, North West Regional Chairman, and recently went to Shavington for the area rally about Zimbabwe (see April's *Point three*). Several members are going to Cyril's Summer School at Alison House this year.

While not actively involved in projects themselves - apart from their own huge one - the branch encourage young people from the church to get involved with projects. They publicise themselves by putting branch programmes in all the libraries but don't achieve much press coverage, although the press release from headquarters about the 75th anniversary got a good write-up.

And are they well thought of in the community? Bill Bennett says, 'Well, I would think at the moment we are thought of pretty highly. Whenever we do anything people are very generous to us.' One successful recent venture has been to hold a car boot sale. They charged £6 a stall and sold tea and hot dogs.

They are very happy in their new home in the church. Bill says, 'We like to think that moving here has been the best thing since sliced bread. A thriving branch needs a warm, friendly meeting place.'

John Darlington adds, 'Our recruitment now is from within the church. If each member of Toc H made a determined effort to bring someone else into the movement during the year that would be marvellous. Surely you could sell Toc H to one person in 12 months? I joined two years ago through helping with the hospital library. I am trying to put something back into life that I have taken out. I enjoy that side of life.' ■

# THE DECADE OF EVANGELISM

*John 14 : 6-7: Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him.'*

In the first of a new series, Keith Lamdin suggests that we need to take a balanced look at what evangelism means: 'The task of evangelism is one that invites us into a constant journey of exploration and deepening spiritual experience.'

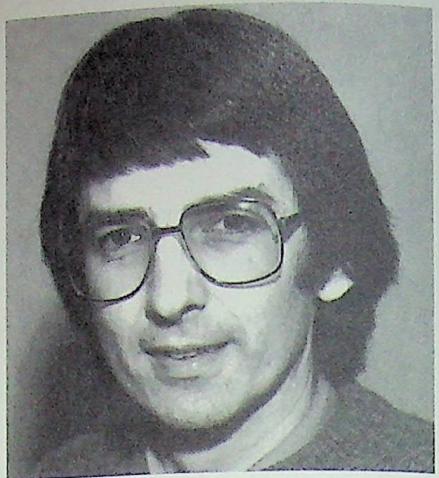
I am writing this on 23 February. The American noon deadline has passed and what is called the land offensive in the Gulf can start at any moment. At the same time as Kuwait oil fields blaze and millions of pounds weight and worth of bombs are dropped, famine in Ethiopia is as bad as ever it was and stretches down the western side of Africa. Nearer home there are more homeless in Oxford than ever and the poll tax forces convictions and deprivation on the poorest of our communities. For many, family life is a bankrupt notion and stable loving relationships between adults are as difficult to maintain as ever.

Evangelism is a dirty word for a lot of people. It conjures up images of a small group which, every Saturday morning at our local shops, gathers to support one of their colleagues who shouts at passers-by about sin and judgment and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Such people couldn't sell washing powder to someone with dirty clothes - and yet you get the feeling that that's what it is all about. It is the same game in practice at the big slick rallies: 'You need a solution for your problems: unhappiness, sin - and Jesus has it.' A kind of super-saver store in the hereafter, with instantaneous benefits.

For others it is the point of division, or should I say a division about the Fourth Point! I well remember a weekend about the Fourth Point with the Toc H Central Council some years ago. When do you tell somebody that you are a Christian, if you are; and what difference does it make whether you tell them or not? If I bind up the broken-hearted do I have to tell them as well that Christ loves them? And what if one is a Muslim or Hindu? And if I find myself working alongside others equally committed to justice and feeding the hungry, do I have to try and convert them, as if my faith were stronger and better than theirs?

**I may have some sympathy with the above points of view, but in the end I don't think that they will do.** A colleague of mine says that if a cure for cancer was found and people kept it secret, they would be thought of as immoral; so Christians, he argues, must be willing to talk about their good news which is, if it is true, very good indeed.

I have found some way through this quagmire by taking hold



*Keith Lamdin*

of 1 Peter 3:15: '*Have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope you have. But give it with courtesy and respect.*'

If somebody asks you why you are a Christian you need to be able to say why - to give your reasons - and these reasons must be reasonable. I am not suggesting that you can reason yourself to faith - there must always be the leap of faith - but that, either before you leap or after, the Faith is reasonable.

There are many problems. Sometimes these are used as red herrings and sometimes they are deeply held apprehensions of people. They involve the questions of suffering and evil, of the nature and purpose of God. They also involve the history of the church, littered with its oppression of women, its acceptance of torture, its violent oppression of other cultures in the Third World, its identification with privilege and wealth and property, its religious wars and endless divisions within itself. Evangelism needs to respond sensibly to these issues.

Evangelism also needs to address the cultural setting in which it takes place. Talking about the United Kingdom, we have to take seriously other faiths, the reductionism of scientific method, the relativism and pluralism and instant materialism that dominate us. We have to relate to a previous decade of conviction politics and ideologies which lead us all to find easy and certain solutions to insoluble dilemmas. We need to respond to changes in language and society.

Let me give one example about the language of gender. The churches, even those which have ordained women, have generally relegated them to servant roles rather than giving them leadership. All the language about God is male, many of the images of God in the Bible and hymns is of a benevolent feudal baron or king. It is not the language of Jesus, culturally determined as that was, it is the language of the patriarchal ruling classes of the Jews, Greeks, Romans and Europeans. The writings of the Church Fathers are often misogynistic, and the Church was implicated in witch trials which led to the death of innocent women by burning.

We need to find language which speaks of God in Jesus Christ for women and men together and we need to develop a church life to honour this equality of power and vocation. There is no reason for the church, preaching of God's love, to be less loving than most of the rest of society. There needs above all to be a tough and intelligent engagement with all the issues and ways of thinking of our own times. I am not saying that we simply give in to the prevailing ideologies. But we do need to understand them, address the issues they raise, speak to the people who believe in them and offer intelligent good news.

Evangelism certainly needs to speak to the head, to the intellect, but it also needs, perhaps more than that, to speak to the heart, to give reasons for the hope we have. Hope springs from and speaks to the heart; it wells out of a full and open embracing of what is 'fundamental in human experience' (to use Thomas Merton's words). This is what evangelism must be prepared to do. But what is fundamental in human experience?

To start with it is about the stages through which we all pass - birth, childhood, adolescence, adult maturity, oldage and death. Each of these stages brings with it deep joys and pain, and all the questions of life and death; isolation and intimacy; freedom and constraint; and the meaning of life. Experience has to do with the inner life - how I feel about myself, what sense I make of my body as it changes, my sexual orientation, how I handle crisis, tragedy and happiness. It has to do with the making and breaking of relationships: the agony of choice, where none of the options seems good; the endless frustration of conflicting loyalties between family, work and church involvement; earning a living or depending on welfare; the pleasures of success and the despairs of failure.

For all of us there is the daily round and common task. Experience has also to engage with the worldwide issues with which I started. Of course we don't have to handle it all at the same time, for that would be overwhelming, but it makes up the rich tapestry of our experience. The difficulty for many of us is that it does feel overwhelming and we turn away from its intensity. We lose ourselves in work or pleasure, or in what T S Eliot called 'living and partly living'.

Evangelism must speak to all these issues with a love and a sensitivity that finds hope in every situation. As we must know this hope before we speak of it, so the task of evangelism is one that invites us into a constant journey of exploration and deepening spiritual experience. We do not speak of the hope that is in us unless it is there - and people who listen to us know whether we speak truly or not.

The last thing that the writer of the first letter of Peter says is that we must do all this with courtesy and respect. Courtesy because it speaks of the deep things of human life, and respect because whoever we talk to is loved by God just as much as we are.

I have a friend who often says, 'I don't know what I think until I hear what I say'. I think there is a lot of truth in that for all of us. Despite all the difficulties, the task of evangelism - of speaking of the hope that is in us - calls us to a deeper inner journey of exploration and a full engagement with the world.

**Keith Lamdin** is the team leader of the Parish Resources Department at Oxford. ■



March for Jesus, Aylesbury, 1990, reproduced by kind permission of Christine Zwart, editor of *The Door*



# Bangladesh — Khasdobir Youth Action Group

by Ken Prideaux-Brune

During his five years in Bangladesh Peter East must often have felt, as he saw the desperate plight of the people around him, that he was making no real progress at all. But now, after a return visit last autumn, he can see that some remarkable changes have taken place since the Khasdobir Youth Action Group was started in 1984.

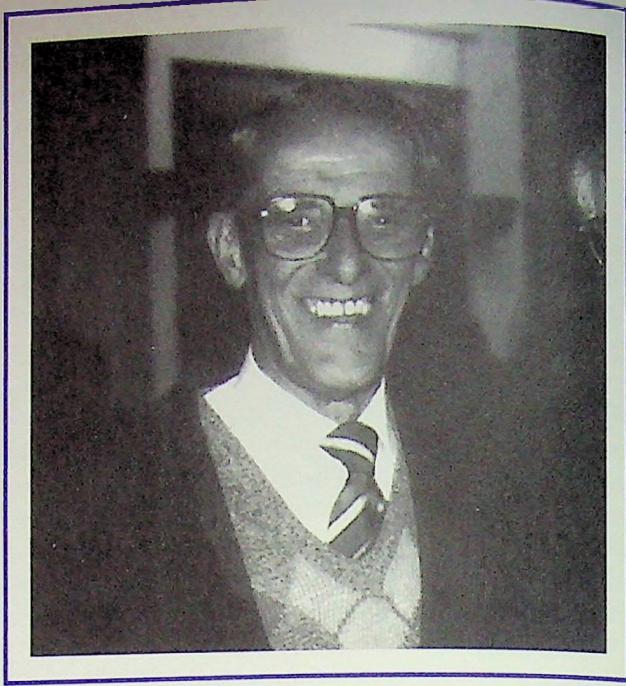
One example is the way that workers on the tea gardens are now becoming integrated into the wider community. When the tea gardens were established, a little over 100 years ago, workers were brought from India. They are not Bengalis and they are Hindus in a predominantly Muslim country. When Peter East first suggested a School under the Sky on one of the tea estates the manager told him that 'these people' weren't interested in education and he'd be wasting his time. Now three of the eight Schools under the Sky, which prepare children from poor, mainly illiterate, families for entry to primary school, are on tea estates, as are three of KYAG's five functional literacy groups for adults. This year three young men, whom KYAG helped through high school, have gone on to college. Two of them are from a tea garden, the first children of tea workers ever to go to college. The father of one of them sold his only possession, a goat, to enable him to go to high school.



*School under the sky*

*(Mothers in background - lessons in hygiene are directed at them as well as the children)*

Even more exciting is the way in which women have been helped to grow in confidence and self-esteem. Not long after he first moved to Bangladesh Peter wrote that the position of women in village society was just too big a problem for him to tackle. Yet KYAG has begun a process of change. Over 200 women were present at Peter's farewell function last December. Not one was veiled. Not one stood submissively, eyes lowered, staring at her feet. Each, at the end, came up to Peter and shook him by the hand. Such a scene would have been unimaginable even two years ago.



*Peter East*

The five functional literacy groups are all for women (though some of the husbands are beginning to ask for similar opportunities). Thirty women, mainly widows, are taking a year's course in KYAG's clothing workshop. Some of those who have completed the course have found jobs in local factories and eight women have formed a co-operative to make clothes and sell them locally. Women members of KYAG go round the village (and what a transformation is contained in that apparently simple phrase) encouraging their neighbours to bring their babies for immunisation, advising on hygiene and nutrition and showing them how to make oral dehydration solution to treat diarrhoea, one of the main killers in Bangladesh.

But some things don't change, or change for the worse. The price of rice, the staple food, has trebled in the last two years and many poor people are always hungry. They hope only for one meal a day and don't always manage that. Thirty-five widows are helped regularly by KYAG - £5 a month is literally the difference between life and death - and emergency help is given at times of illness or other crisis.



*School under the sky—Larkhatoorah Tea Estate*

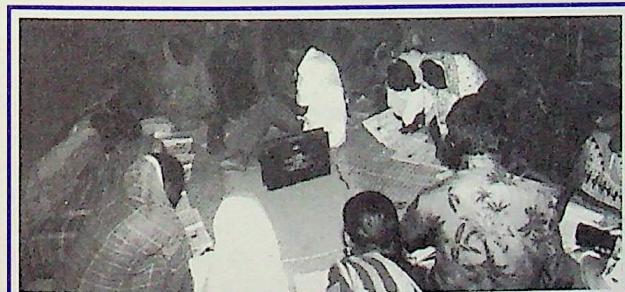
Backyard chicken farming has always seemed like a good way to enable widows to earn their own living, but so far has proved KYAG's one complete failure. Now a fresh attempt is to be made, using local chickens rather than European breeds. Their eggs are only a quarter the size but their chances of survival are much greater.

The aim of KYAG, wherever possible, is not to give hand-outs but to help people to earn their own living. The latest innovation is the creation of savings groups. Already there are 20, run by their own members, who commit themselves to save a set amount, usually just a few pence, each week. Once the group has saved regularly for a year it is eligible to apply for a low-interest loan from KYAG with which to start some income-producing activity. Poverty and hunger affect practically everybody in Khasdorir, but these savings groups are faint gleams of hope for a better future.



Sewing Workshop

Since Peter East's retirement in 1988, KYAG has been managed entirely by people living within the area in which it operates, under the leadership of its remarkable president, Harun Ahmed. It has already brought radical changes to the community of which it is part and that process of change for the better, however slow it may sometimes seem, is still continuing. From the start Toc H members, now with generous backing from the British government's Overseas Development Administration, have found the remarkably small amount of money needed to support this wide-ranging and effective programme. Just £18,000 a year is all that's required, of which ODA will, we hope, continue to contribute half.



Adult Literacy—Lakhatoorah Tea Estate

If you're already helping, please continue. If you haven't yet contributed, please consider doing so. Your money can achieve so much in Khasdorir. Contributions (payable to Toc H) should be sent to: John Biggerstaff, International Officer, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.



The Projects Office (Peter East in doorway)

## Khasdorir Youth Action Group

Works in a cluster of 13 villages and 2 neighbouring tea estates.

Runs 8 Schools under the Sky, from which 400 children go forward to primary school each year.

Helps 100 high school students and 3 college students by buying books and paying their fees.

Runs 5 functional literacy groups for adults.

Runs a clothing workshop, teaching 30 women each year to make clothes.

Helped, through a loan, the formation of a cooperative, through which 8 women make clothes for sale locally.

Has 20 savings groups and a revolving loan fund to assist these groups to develop income-producing activities.

Plans to introduce backyard chicken farming.

Gives regular help (£5 a month) to 35 frail, elderly widows.

Gives emergency help in cases of sickness or to meet funeral expenses.

Encourages women members to visit their neighbours to give health education and advice.

Does all this on a budget of just £18,000 a year.

# THE WAY FORWARD

In the first of a series of articles commissioned by the CEC about the future direction of Toc H, John Mitchell writes about changes being implemented as a result of the 1989/90 policy decisions.

## 1. THE BEGINNING OF THE FUTURE

1990 was a highspot in the history of Toc H. In many varied and imaginative ways we really marked our 75th Birthday, looking back with pride, and looking at the present with celebration.

1991 is not primarily the 'year after'. It is much more the beginning of the next period of Toc H, and it is good to be able to report that, even before we had started the 1990 celebrations, plans were laid for this next period. The intention of this article is to give a broad outline of the planning, pondering and plotting that is going on. Later articles will fill in more details.

### *Clarifying our Purpose*

The diagnosis we made two years ago was that Toc H needed major revitalisation. The starting point was to canvass opinion about the Movement - its basis, purpose and future - from the wide spread of members throughout the UK. This canvassing came in two parts. The Chaplaincy Team conducted a survey of people's views about the Christian basis of Toc H, and at the same time the Central Executive Committee asked members their views on the role Toc H should play in the future.

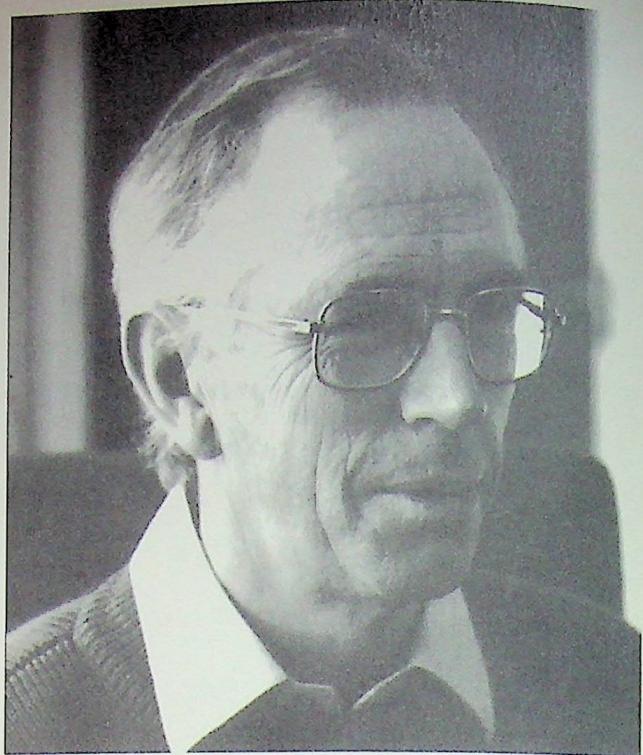
A year later we had the answers. With huge support across the board, Central Council endorsed a 'Statement of Re-affirmation' which restated our Christian basis in the language of today, and also passed the resolution entitled 'Focus for the Future', which outlined the role of Toc H for the years ahead.

### *Focus for the Future*

The 1989 'Focus' resolution contained three important strands for renewal. It first stated what Toc H would do - that it would 'provide opportunities for people to meet who would not otherwise do so, to develop fellowship, to work together, and to discover a faith to live by'. Older members will hear in that a clear echo of the earlier definition of Toc H, given by its founder, that Toc H is about a two-fold reconciliation, that of man with man and man with God. This is now our Focus.

The Resolution then went on to say that Toc H would use its central resources to promote a limited number of methods which would indeed provide the opportunities listed in the focus. For too long Toc H has tried to go down too many and diverse avenues with its central resources of money and staff time - in future we shall be clearer about what we do and what we don't do with our resources.

The third strand was to ask the CEC to start planning any restructuring of Toc H necessary to meet the Focus.



*John Mitchell*

### *Progress in 1990*

Alongside the festivity and fun of the 1990 celebrations, culminating in the memorable events in London and Poperinge in December, the planning went on. There was more consultation with members, various proposals were suggested (and some shot down in flames!) and finally a resolution called 'Proposals for the Future' came to Council. This both reported the actions CEC had taken during the year and also proposed a major restructuring of staff working.

*Among the actions taken during the year were:*

**Methods:** The CEC felt that, for the time being, we should aim to have no more than six 'methods' into which we put central resources - and it felt that we could identify four at present. These were Branches and groups, Projects, Friendship Circles, and Cameos. The first three of these were well established Toc H expressions - the fourth, 'Cameos', is a new word for a method which has been around, although not identified as a method, for years.

**Membership Development Fund:** A fund was set up to provide financial help for appropriate development initiatives taken by members independently of staff involvement. This has already financed one member-led Cameo and underwritten an ambitious project - both in the West Midlands.

**National subcommittees on methods:** The CEC was clear that all methods should in time have their own national subcommittee, to make sure the CEC had good advice about the promotion of the method, its standards and so on. It therefore set up a Branch/Group sub-committee which has so far met three times. It is now engaged on a consultation with membership, via District Officers, to seek to establish clear criteria which should be used in deciding whether a group of people should be recognised as a Toc H branch or group. Once again, it is part of a process of focussing more carefully on

the question 'What exactly is it that makes something "Toc H"?' It has also arranged with the editor of *Point three* that a series of articles on branch life will be carried during 1991.

**Membership Working Party:** Clearly the continual drop in membership numbers is a matter of concern, so a special working party was set up early in 1990 to assess the problem and consider solutions. It is at present conducting a series of surveys to gather opinions from various categories of people, such as wives, children and other relatives of members, those who have joined recently, those who are involved in projects but who have not joined, the general public.... When it has more information it will begin to consider solutions.

**Campaign 91:** Aware that the future of Toc H will require people to give a lead at all levels, 1991 will see a three-part 'Campaign' about leadership. It started with a questionnaire to all branches and groups in January. There will then be a series of Day Conferences during the summer, and it will conclude with two weekend conferences in the autumn.

**Staffing Proposals:** The major recommendation to Council was about future working of development staff. It was proposed and agreed that development staff should work in teams and concentrate on working in depth in a small number of areas. The feeling at CEC was that to spread staff, singly, to cover large areas of the country was not very productive and was often very lonely for them. The idea is that a team of at least two people should be put into a number of 'target areas' to try and revitalise Toc H in those areas. One can imagine a target area in which there are branches and groups, projects, friendship circles and cameos all running alongside each other. They would thus strengthen and encourage one another, with an efficient follow-up system so that many people who start off in Toc H on short-term methods such as projects and cameos might also get involved in longer term methods.

We are currently looking at 10 locations - one at Poperinge, two in Wales (Cardiff and Port Penrhyn), and the remainder in England - in East London, Oxford (Cuddesdon), Exeter (Lindridge House), Birmingham, Leicester, West Yorkshire and Cleveland.

The majority of existing Development Staff are already in target areas, and most will probably remain where they are. The few who are not are being encouraged to relocate.

We are also bringing in new procedures that will enable the staff effort to be better directed and be more productive. A new appraisal system is under way, and the concept of setting clear targets for staff has been adopted and is now being worked out in detail.

## FROM NOW ON . . .

1991 will obviously be a year of transition as we begin to fashion new ways of staff working in the field. It will also see the launch of Campaign 91, and the progress of the Membership Working Party investigation.

What is also on the agenda is an exploration into how we can broaden some of our existing methods. One is 'Friendship Circles', and we are looking at ways of extending these beyond their current limitations. At present, with just one exception, circles are all initiated and organised by paid staff (mainly funded by outside authorities) and are solely aimed at people who have been mentally

ill. The National Friendship Network sub-Committee is hoping that 1991 will see BOTH new circles for those who have been ill, but initiated by trained members and not just by paid staff, and ALSO circles for categories of people other than those who have been ill. One suggestion is lonely army wives in BAOR. This could be a very fruitful new avenue.

The other area in which we must experiment is the shape of the branch. The Branch/Group sub-committee are engaged in a process of trying to agree what exactly are the essentials that make a Toc H branch a branch, or a group a group. Once that is decided, we must then experiment widely with different meeting patterns that will include these essentials. The traditional shape of the two hour meeting with speaker, reports, Light and tea must be paralleled with other patterns which may be more suitable to the new people involved. As one example, we have at present a group in a prison in Devon, and already that group is operating to a different meeting pattern, but one that is no less Toc H. We have to welcome that and seek other patterns.

## Summary

There are no dramatic short cuts for revitalising Toc H. It has to be a fusion of a number of ingredients. I believe that we are nearing a point where we will have many of these in place and that new growth will begin. We have established a real clarity about our basic underlying ethos - our Christian roots - and about our purpose in today's society.

We have decided how we are going to use our resources, and are identifying our methods of work. We are becoming clearer about the basic 'core' of each method (i.e. what makes it Toc H) and we shall be experimenting in new ways of using each method. We are shifting our staff effort so that it is more focussed and productive. We are giving urgent attention to the need to bring in more members, and to challenge more members to become leaders in whatever way they can.

We are beginning to think hard about longer-term finance, and in July's *Point three* the Hon Treasurer will be sharing his ideas about the future financing of Toc H. In addition, and crucially, we have to remember that if we do all this, even if we do it brilliantly - but forget that we are basically about LOVE it will all be as worthless as St Paul's 'sounding brass or tinkling cymbal'.

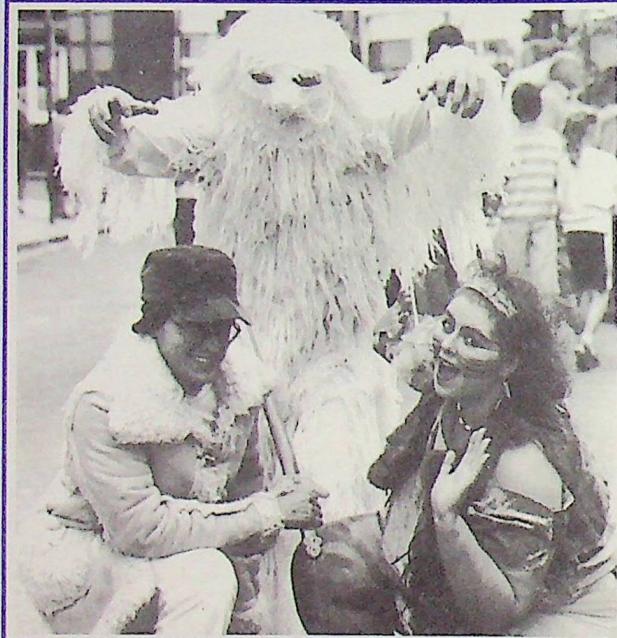
And all this rethinking and change goes on against the background of thousands of members and volunteers who are carrying on the usual essential work of maintaining branches and their work, organising and leading projects, operating friendship circles, doing administrative tasks, and so on. It is vital that such work carries on. Renewal can never be done solely by resolution, or by national executives. It must be a partnership in which some experiment with new ways of working, while others hold firm within existing patterns and keep that going as well as they possibly can. It is no good advancing on one flank if the other gives way!

The contribution of the member 'out there' who makes it his or her job to keep the local unit going and working is as crucial as that of anyone pioneering new territory. Whichever you are, your contribution is vital. If we all stick at it, and pray about it, and try and help each other, we shall, please God, begin to see a renewal of Toc H that will delight us and amaze the society we live in ... Let's be amazing! ■

# BRANCH NEWS



**Coupar Angus Branch** enjoyed a traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties at their Burns Night celebrations in the Toc H hall. This was followed by games and entertainment organised by branch members.



**Bridlington TAG** arranged a 'Yeti' hunt around their local pubs to raise money to send member, Nick Hawden, to America on 28 June as a Clayton volunteer. They are justly proud that Nick has been chosen.



Congratulations to **Reg White and Florence Oughton of Shanklin/Sandown Joint Branch**, who were married recently at St John's Church, Niton, Isle of Wight. Reg and Florrie are enthusiastic Toc H members and say that they are looking forward to their silver anniversary! Reg is 79!



*Left to right: Doris Foxworthy, Pilot; Jackie Ramage, Secretary; Betty Drudge, Chairman; Doris Keeling, Treasurer.*

**Parkhurst, Isle of Wight Women's Branch** celebrated their 40th Anniversary in February with a service of praise and thanksgiving. Chairman Betty Drudge welcomed speaker Sylvia Clark - it was Sylvia who introduced the group to Toc H in 1951. Seven new members were welcomed, bringing the membership up to 28. The branch is very active in the local community and is supporting the Body Scanner Appeal for St Mary's Hospital as well as running the out patients canteen for one week each month.



A 'Glamour Shot' from **Rushden Royal Branch** showing a chorus line of 'Roaring Royals' whose ages range from 29 to 62 (the younger members!). They regularly entertain at the Sheltered Housing Complex at Rushden and, having used up all the semiprofessional local talent, thought they would have a go themselves this time. They assure us that the audience loved them!

The **Revd. Alan Johnson** was Guest Speaker at the newly formed Toc H Group at Channings Wood prison on 14 March. Jon Clamp, Secretary of the Group, says that their plans include a children's party in the prison and a 'Golden Oldies' evening for the general public. Alan gave them advise on the role of Toc H in these events.

**Louisa Evans.** Development Officer, Cardiff, reports that Toc H in South Glamorgan has been involved with several other organisations in planning the first Volunteering Forum in Wales - aiming to bring together all organisations involved with volunteer recruitment, training and placement to share ideas and problems and to assist in communication, training and the encouragement of joint ventures.

'After five initial meetings we now have over 42 organisations working with volunteers on our mailing list. In June, during Celebrating Volunteering Week, we will be holding a public launch of our new forum - Toc H is likely to be in the forefront of this major venture - with exciting implications for development into the 1990s'.



**Louisa Evans**, together with an enthusiastic group of volunteers and hundreds of Toc H helium balloons, held two street surveys in Cardiff and Pontypridd, South Wales, over the Easter weekend to ask the general public what the name Toc H means to them and to publicise the movement generally. Louise reports that both events were a great success and certainly raised public awareness of Toc H in South Wales.



Hans-Georg Gessner attended a get-together at Lymington Branch recently. Although a member, Hans lives and works in Germany and has not been able to meet his friends for five years.

**Worthing Men's Branch** have a surplus of emergency flashing lamps which they have kindly offered to supply to interested branches.

*A recent weekend workshop, at Cuddesdon House, Oxford, discussed how to fit the Fourth Point into projects. One of the participants, Anita Scrivens, was sufficiently impressed to offer the following contribution to Point three.*

## FITTING THE FOURTH POINT INTO PROJECTS

The weekend, 'A Faith to Live By', at Cuddesdon House on 22 and 23 February was not only enjoyable but gave an opportunity of helping to put together a new booklet which project leaders will be using this summer.

The purpose of the get together at Cuddesdon was to address the question of how to integrate the Fourth Point - 'To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it' - into projects. Too often volunteers are given no chance, before or during a project, to consider the meaning of the challenge they have undertaken. Instead they are left, in a completely haphazard way, to reflect on their experiences after the project is over.

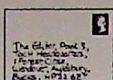
The weekend workshop was devoted to finding the means to make the Fourth Point as essential a part of a project as organising the food and accommodation for the volunteers.

A number of ideas emerged. In putting them together during the course of the weekend, it became obvious that we could offer only a limited selection of our ideas based on our own experiences. The handbook should therefore be seen as a prototype, not a definitive guide. We hope it can be given a 'test run' this year and then be revised as necessary to include new material and improvements. We think we unearthed a few stimulating suggestions for project support groups and for leadership training.

Leaders will have to do their homework in advance to ensure they are clear about Toc H's Christian roots and their own role in an experiment in Christian living. In the past the occasional unplanned opportunity may have arisen on projects: the late night or early morning debate over a cup of coffee, for example - for people to discuss their beliefs about the Christian way. The handbook will suggest that it should be up to the leaders to consider the Fourth Point at the pre-project, planning stage, just as they would consider the volunteers' free time or travel arrangements. And, in ensuring that the Fourth Point is an integral part of a project, the leaders must also prepare themselves to meet any challenges from volunteers.

We felt that more workshop weekends may well be needed in the future to help leaders put these ideas into practice. In addition to providing the fun and fellowship of working together, the weekend was both emotionally and spiritually challenging. ■

# Your Letters



## WHAT ARE TOC H's OBJECTIVES?

In 'A Question of Leadership' (March *Point three*) John Mitchell quotes Churchill, de Gaulle and Napoleon in his endeavour to quantify leadership. Without a doubt, these three, in their very different ways, were leaders (so was Hitler) - but they shared one common virtue; their objectives were reasonably specific and clearly perceived.

John comments that 'Toc H needs leadership or it will go nowhere', but leadership to where or to what? Are Toc H objectives really specific and clearly defined? Ask the average passer-by or the man behind the pint pot; the replies may be chastening. Indeed, the reason I'm prompted to write this letter is that, in conversation with seven people who attend my village church, three had not heard of Toc H and, of the remaining four, only two assumed that the movement was still active (but did not know the scope of its activities).

To be sure, John stresses 'the strength of Toc H...being a membership movement' (whatever that means), yet the success of these confines is certainly not demonstrated by the 'growth and development' to which he aspires. The present contraction of membership can't be considered even a Thatcherite 'slimming down'.

If one considers almost any of the major charities, our 'man in the street' will have a fairly shrewd idea of their aims and purposes. His (or her) assessment of those activities will be the means of determining whether to join them, donate to them, or turn away.

Does Toc H offer suitably quantifiable and unambiguous objectives? Much of the philosophy of the movement appears to adhere to the commendable model of 75 years ago. However, I believe that the generation whom it originally served were, by comparison with today's standards, more gentle, even possibly more naive. We live now in more cynical times; our brash generation requires the aphorism - not the platitude.

The Campaign '91 questionnaire largely concentrates on personal and individual characteristics. I do hope that it will not foster too many embryo leaders, but, rather,

will encourage those who will see the present-day need to clearly identify the 'product' - and then to market it vigorously, and within clearly defined parameters: above all, to shy away from an inward looking oligarchy.

I write as one who stands beyond the periphery of the movement and, hence, have no legitimate voice. Yet, if Toc H is to continue into the next century, it is those presently beyond its periphery who must be reached. This letter may not, like the score of Gerontius, be worthy of your memory; I hope, however, that it may at least form the very germ of an hypothesis.

John Marshall

Aylesbury

*John is a member of staff, Print Room Supervisor, at Headquarters.*

## THE TRUE SPIRIT OF TOC H

As a member of Toc H Lymington Branch I have received *Point three* regularly over a long period of time. Today I would like to congratulate you for your work and tell you that it is very encouraging for me to be able to keep in touch with the activities in Toc H and to enjoy the editorial issues on page two.

For some time in the past I had given the editorial part an angry glance, to the extent that I began reading on page three - until I gave goodwill another chance. I was quite surprised and fascinated by what I was now reading, wondering what miracle might have stricken the writer. It could not have been sheer coincidence that I could now wholeheartedly agree with what was signed '*Ruth Boyd*'. At last *Point three* has abandoned the silly pseudo-revolutionary bluff, pure provocation that had made me feel to be 'on the other side of the river'.

I also want to thank somebody for wisely making a talent like you the editor - and you, for making the change, for your sincere, convincing and remarkable starting points expressed in your articles. More than ever before do they bear witness to what I believe is the true spirit of Toc H. Good, sound journalism, splendid ideas, straight forward language, wide range, warmth. I feel I have been given a new dimension of perspective, and read with great attention what you say.

Hans-Georg Gessner

Bielefeld, Germany

*Ed: This is a genuine letter that has been submitted for publication!! Now let's hear from all those who disagree - it all makes for interesting debate.*

## MADAM CHAIRMAN!

Recent documents from Toc H refer to someone called 'Chairer'. Surely the person elected or appointed to head up a group of people should be referred to as Chairman, be it a man or a woman.

In the House of Commons when a lady takes the chair she is addressed as Madam Deputy Speaker. At many meetings we hear the term Madam Chairman used, so why invent a new word. The Oxford Dictionary defines a Chairman as 'one who takes the chair or presides at an assembly or meeting'.

If we are to address ourselves to the subject of defining Leadership, do please let us start by correctly addressing the leader.

Harry Mills  
Lymington

## BUDDHA AND CHRIST

The March issue included a good exposition of Buddhism...in the interests of fairmindedness we should obtain some knowledge of the teachings and practice of other religions, but when the official periodical of a movement like Toc H gives such exposure it seems to me that there should be some comment on the difference between that religion and Christianity, which is an essential part of the origin and continuation of Toc H. I have felt this about the previous treatment that *Point three* has given to Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Surely the difference between Buddhism and Christianity is our belief that God is a Person.... I have indeed been fortunate that several times I have felt I was in the presence of Jesus Christ revealed by the Spirit in the lives of men I have been brought into contact with. It is a very humbling experience.

Michael Ramsey (Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-74), in his book *Be Still and Know* writes:

'There are those who point to a similarity between the contemplation of Christians and the contemplation of Buddhists and people of other faiths. Here indeed the techniques may sometimes be similar. What is different is the context of religion and life in which the contemplation occurs, and for the Christian contemplative that context is of supreme importance. The effect of contemplation is often not to cause the person to long for experience so much as to love and serve God under the sovereignty revealed in Jesus. Indeed the validity of contemplation is often tested by the pursuit of the life of faith.'

George Davis Newbury

## INTERFAITH MESSAGE

The last chapter of *Out of a Hop Loft* indicates that one of Toc H's main callings today is the field of interfaith, now that the interdenominational confrontations are largely a thing of the past (thanks a great deal to Toc H). I don't think there is much likelihood of conflict between Christianity and Buddhism, nor with Hinduism (and I had a Bahai as a neighbour at a Toc H residential Inter-Faith conference!). Conflict can arise, however, with the more demanding Muslim community and I think it worth while putting on record that we already have enough in common with them religiously speaking, to enable us to live together with them in love, joy and peace.

Islam and Judaism share with Christianity a common faith in one God: Allah the Merciful to the former, and Jehovah the transcendent to the other, while to us He is, of course, as Jesus revealed Him, our Father.

The one thing we alone as Christians believe is, of course, in the Resurrection. The idea of a humiliated, crucified God is unacceptable to the other two. It is understandable, for both Islam and Judaism have such an over-riding emphasis of the transcendence and mystery of God that the idea of the Cross is, as Paul describes it, a scandal or stumbling block. Yet, paradoxically, the idea of the Cross is implicit in the Old Testament (Isaiah chapters 52,53) and Allah is always the Merciful, the Compassionate.

However the intellectual approach is rarely successful; what can we in Toc H do? The answer must be by living out our simple faith in Christ crucified, risen, unconditionally befriending. This is the way the message gets across, wordlessly, but influentially and effectively. In the meantime we have so much in common to keep us at full stretch for years to come! Just by living out our faith the Toc H Way we shall find that the other faiths reach out for the treasure we are entrusted with because they 'notice the beauty of the things we do, and are learning to think better of God through having known us'.

I think you have done a great job in giving most of the other faiths full coverage in *Point three* in the past year. Now, I think I detect in your editorials a positive thrust at deepening our own Christian faith, and rejoice in the thought that, having opened up the field, you are pointing the way forward.

**Revd Canon Hugh Potts Gloucester**  
*Ed:* The series on different faiths is largely the achievement of our previous editor, Judith Rice.

# Up Date

## Welcome to 20 New Members

The following new members were registered during February/March

Stanley V Hurley (Bebington & Bromborough J)

Ronald Haresign, Mrs. Jessie Harrison, Mrs Marjorie Romanowicz.

Derek Sowden, Mrs Doreen Sowden.

Leonard Sowden (Bramley J)

Mrs Olive Tanzell (Bournemouth & Christchurch J)

Miss Frances M Jones (Bromborough W)

Mrs Iris F Davies (Broughton Astley W)

John Rintoul (Denny J)

William M Buckle (Duns M)

Tom B Dobson (Jedburgh M)

George H Thomas (Kennington J)

Rev. David J Dunn (Newport M)

Mrs Georgette Deroo, Mrs Jeanne Luyckx (Poperinge J)

Mrs Marjorie F Riggs (Seaford J)

Miss Alison D Somers (South Yorkshire District)

Miss Mary L Beard (Tunbridge Wells East J)

Congratulations to Grace and George Davis of Newbury Branch who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

'The wind blew outside and rain spattered the windows, but all was warm and cheerful in Poachers Den as Bucks Friendship Circle settled down for a weekend stay.' They spent their days exploring the sights, climbed the Boston Stump and explored old King's Lynn. Evenings of competition, debate and games were part of the fun and friendship. Everyone agreed that Poachers Den was a great place for a get together.

Welcome to Paul Harpin who joined the staff at Webb House on 1 March as a residency worker.

Congratulations to Alex Fox, who joins Penelope Bayley as a Development Officer at Lindridge House, Devon.



**STOP PRESS:** The Toc H Channings Wood Prison Group greeting the Revd Alan Johnson (see page 12).

## Obituaries

### In September

Clarice M Baggott (Anstey)

### In January

Edith E "Edie" Booker (Bognor Regis)

### In February

Arthur Davies (Chirk)

Richard H Denmead (Chard)

Ronald M Roach (Tavistock)

Helen E Robb (Coupar Angus)

Ronald A Seal (Yiewsley & West Drayton)

Stanley B Slater (Loughborough)

### In March

Fred F Hawker (Crewkerne)

Lilian E Mapplebeck (Cleveland District)

### Not previously recorded -

Madge McMullan (Belfairs)

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Steven Walker, former LTV and Central Councillor.

Eastbourne Branch has lost an old and loyal member with the death of Harry Brooker, who died, after a long illness, at the age of 80 on 7 March. He was very active in Toc H for many years, first joining the Croydon Branch and later, with his wife, the Eastbourne Branch.

Crewkerne Branch has lost one of its senior members, Fred Hawker, who died on 2 March. A member of Toc H for almost 50 years, he had served as Pilot and Chairman and was always ready to lend a hand in branch activities.

A service was held on 30 January for Edie Booker of Bognor Regis Branch. A valuable member of Toc H for over 30 years, she maintained her interest in it despite hardship caused by ill health.

Mary Shaw, a long-standing member of Toc H Australia and well known to many members here, died on 20 January at the age of 88. She joined the League of Women Helpers in 1931 and was one of the party of Australians who attended the Toc H 21st birthday celebrations in London in 1936. She served in various capacities at branch, area and Australian Council level and became the first woman Hon. Area Commissioner for South Australia. She had been Chairman of the Area Executive and continued to serve on that body until the end of 1990.

Douglas Dickinson died in Canberra, Australia, on 9 March at the age of 82. He was involved in Toc H from the time of Tubby Clayton's visit there in 1925. He helped to establish the branch in Canberra in 1938 and remained actively involved in it. In 1969 he became Australian Commissioner and was largely responsible for drafting the Australian Constitution covering Integration.

We give thanks for their lives

DSW

## TRIP TO TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE

A few places still remain on the coach trip to Talbot House.

24 June to 1 July

Cost: £210  
to include coach travel from Stockport, accommodation, meals.

*Further details from:*

Betty Russell,  
25 West Bond Street, Macclesfield,  
Cheshire. Tel: 0625 618764

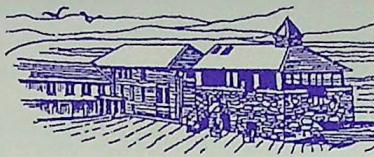
## WEBB HOUSE

require two volunteers to live-in as supporters to offer friendship and a sympathetic ear to residents; to provide cover in the residence when the residency workers are absent, i.e. night time and weekends; to contact the residency workers if a problem arises outside working hours.

*For further details please contact:*  
Paul Harpin, Toc H Webb House,  
7 Zetland Road, Middlesborough,  
Cleveland TS1 1EH. Tel: 0642 230982

## THE TOC H CENTRE

(on the shores of Snowdonia, Port Penrhyn)



Situated on the Menai Straits surrounded by sea on 3 sides, this centre provides a perfect peaceful setting where you can learn more about yourself and others through leisurely study and energetic outdoor pursuits. Centrally heated, self-catering accommodation for up to 34 people. Easy access to Anglesey and A5

Contact: Toc H, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, North Wales.  
Tel: Bangor (0248) 351906  
or Pentraeth (024870) 793

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECT 1991

An international project is taking place at Poperinge in August 1991.

Work involved will include conservation work on and around the Pool of Peace, work with the War Graves Commission at Hill 60, assisting in the construction of an adventure playground in Poperinge.

Fourteen volunteers from different countries, including the UK, will be living and working together at Talbot House, Poperinge.

Much of the money has already been donated but a further £2000 is needed. Any donations would be much appreciated:

Leslie and Janet Major, 8 Wolversdene Gardens, Andover, Hants SP10 2BB.

## THE STILL CENTRE

FRIDAY 20 to SUNDAY 22  
SEPTEMBER

at CUDDESDON HOUSE

During this weekend there will be an opportunity to think about stillness with some periods of silence interspersed with talks and discussion.

Cost for the weekend will be £20.

*Further details from*  
Revd Alan Johnson at Headquarters

## COACH TRIP TO POPERINGE

A coach trip to Talbot House, Poperinge.

Dates: 26 September to 1 October.

Cost: £150 (includes travel, accommodation, meals and all trips)

Non refundable deposit of £20 required.

*Further details from:*

Pat Turner  
60 Wall End Road, Wootton,  
Bedford MK43 9HP. Tel: 0234 768410

(Overnight accommodation before the trip may be possible)

## BRIDLINGTON TOC H ACTION GROUP

*Invite you to their 10th Birthday Festival*

Saturday 27 July 1991, 10am to 6pm  
at Bridlington Lower School, Quay Road

We are looking for about 20 volunteers for the day's events to act as marshalls, stall holders, general helpers. Also people willing to bring their own stalls. There will be a nominal charge for a stall but all proceeds thus raised will be for your own group.

*For further information please contact:*

Miss Diane Bolton, Publicity Officer, Bridlington TAG, 15 Haschnere Avenue, Bridlington YO15 2EB. Tel: 0262 678423

### PHOTOS IN POINT THREE

A mandate was passed at Central Council in November that Toc H should demonstrate its commitment to the environment by using recycled paper. The absorbent nature of this paper, plus the fact that the majority of the photographs used in *Point three* are snapshots sent in by contributors, causes the quality to suffer.

### POINT THREE FOR THE BLIND

The magazine is now available in tape form for readers who are either blind or partially sighted. Several members have already taken advantage of this excellent facility which is only £3, including postage, for 12 months. Write to: Harry C Bailey, 27 Harrowden Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3BG

Falmouth Toc H, Holiday accommodation for five plus cot. £60 per week. Falmouth 0326 312689

## A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

FRIDAY 14 to SUNDAY 16 JUNE

at CUDDESDON HOUSE

A time to pause and reflect together on the nature of spirituality, particularly in Toc H.

Cost for the weekend will be £20.

*Further details from*  
Revd Alan Johnson at Headquarters

## WARDEN MANOR AWARDS

These are available to branches/groups/districts which are planning new ventures to involve people with Toc H for the first time.

Applications are considered at any time and forms can be obtained from John Biggerstaff at Headquarters.

When British Telecom introduce a charge for directory enquiries later this year, customers who cannot use a phone book because of disability or medical condition will continue to get a free service if they register with British Telecom. Free registration line staffed by specially trained people available 8am to 8pm every day: 0800 919195.

## Small Ads

*Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.*

**Hythe, Kent** - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Tourney Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407